

NEWS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release
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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION ANNOUNCES MAJOR COST SAVINGS IN COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEM CHANGE OVER

Dover – Thomas Jarrett, Secretary of the Department of Technology and Information (DTI) today announced that a major milestone has been completed to bring the State's computer network operating system into the 21st century. An intensive three year effort resulted in the total transformation from an antiquated, no longer available on the market, operating system to today's modern Microsoft Windows suite of systems.

Governor Ruth Ann Minner heralded the completion of the operating system as "a great success in our e government initiatives. The DTI team accomplished a seamless transition, and brought the project in \$3million under budget and on schedule. In addition to the DTI staff, credit is also due to employees in every state agency that helped bring the conversion to completion. Many state employees put in long hours to make certain that the transition would be accomplished without glitches in day-to-day state operations."

"Nearly everyone who has a personal computer at home now uses Microsoft Windows operating systems, yet the majority of state government users had to rely on an antiquated and ill-suited Banyan Vines system. Not only was the Banyan system slow and incompatible with most systems in use today, the company itself is no longer in business, so it was impossible to purchase products or find support for the system itself," said Jarrett.

The project to convert the system from Banyan to Windows was a three year effort that touched every single user of the state network, over 20,000 total employees. The project was completed on time and came in 15% under budget, even with the addition of several features not included in the original project scope. In addition to the migration of the network operating system, the project also included changing the State's email system to Microsoft Exchange and providing redundancy and centralization to the State's wide area network.

One of the most significant features added during the transformation project was the addition of SPAM filters to the state government network. Stopping SPAM messages is an ongoing battle in all computer networks and the state system is no different. In July 2004 the state mail system received over 6.7 million pieces of mail. Of these, 4.2 million messages, or 63% of the total received were determined to be SPAM and intercepted by filters.

With the new filters in place, DTI has been able to significantly reduce the number of SPAM messages being received by State employees. This not only results in more efficient computer usage for employees but provides costs savings by eliminating unnecessary demands on the network.

A seven member team of DTI staff members were responsible for the completion of this milestone project for state government. They are: Doug Lilly, Rick Truitt, Rob Revels, Bob Styles, Rich Borrelli, Richard Dillon and Colleen Gause.